An initial purchase of additional hotspots and data plans by the Hormel Foundation ensured internet access for students and families across our community. Grant dollars secured by Austin Aspires allowed us to extend the data plans through Summer 2021, build a free tutoring program, and hire a Tech Navigator to support families as they work through distance learning.

Mother Teresa said, “I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot, together we can do great things.” That is the true spirit of collective impact, and we see it repeatedly in the work that we do in our community daily.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT to the community

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

2020 has been a year unlike any other. This past year, COVID-19 has provided us with unique opportunities to partner with community organizations, families and students in new ways.

Community partner support and the collective impact model brought grants to support distance learning efforts and the continuation of the backpack program to provide meals to students. Additionally, as a result of receiving dollars from the state of Minnesota during this past year, our expanded team has connected with and supported students and families in ways we weren’t able to before.

All of this great work means Austin Aspires is very close to being recognized as a StriveTogether Sustaining Gateway organization. Sustaining Gateway organizations are those that demonstrate effective communication practices with partners and our community, and evidence of data-driven decision making to engage partners and practitioners to improve community-level outcomes.

We could not be more proud of the relationships we have with our community partners, and the tremendous support shown by all our community. We look forward to a time when we get to do more than Austin Aspires, and look to be engaged as a leader in the community. Our community will provide equal access to opportunities which encourage our learners to explore areas of personal interest and prepare for post-secondary education or career.

Our community will address social, emotional, mental and physical barriers to success for all learners.

Respectfully,

Jayne Gibson
Executive Director

COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN ACTION

In March 2020, the state of Minnesota, like so many others across the county, was forced to move to a drastically different educational model in the interest of the safety of its students and staff. In just a short period of weeks, teachers, students and parents had to navigate new roles in this unique and challenging learning environment.

It was not easy, but the students, staff and families of Austin worked with grace and perseverance to do their best. Our typical Austin fashion, the community was quick to step forward and ask what could be done to support this shift. Austin Aspires, working in collaboration with the Austin Public Schools, Austin Public Library and Pacelli Catholic Schools identified needs, and then resources, to support.

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We could not be more proud of the relationships we have with our community partners, and the tremendous support shown by all our community. We feel honored to do what we get to do to ensure that Austin will be recognized as a leader in education with a culture of educational excellence, cradle to career, embraced in every aspect of our community.

Respectfully,

Jayne Gibson
Executive Director

Let’s talk about what Austin Aspires has accomplished this past year and where we are headed in 2021.

Get Involved

The success of our work depends on the commitment of our community to our young people. Learn more about how you can help support our vision of educational excellence for all.

Visit: austinaspires.org
or scan here

GET INVOLVED
Parents are the most important job, yet one of the newest and most challenging that many of us will ever do. Children don’t come with instruction manuals, and even if they did, the instructions would only work sometimes under the conditions of our own childhood. The Hispanic male graduation rate was about 36% when Teresa and Jesus joined Austin Aspires leveraged grant dollars from the State of Minnesota to hire two bilingual navigators to support Hispanic males in grades 7-12.

Teresa Lugo and Jesus Alvarez have a primary focus to work with families and students to remove obstacles that may come with instruction manuals, and even if they did, the instructions would only work sometimes under the conditions of our own childhood. The Hispanic male graduation rate was about 36% when Teresa and Jesus joined Austin Aspires leveraged grant dollars from the State of Minnesota to hire two bilingual navigators to support Hispanic males in grades 7-12.

Two years ago, education leaders in the Austin community identified an eye-opening gap in Austin graduation rates – Hispanic males were graduating at a far lower rate than any other group in our community. As a result of data and student partners’ collaborations and community focus groups with families and students, Austin Aspires leveraged grant dollars from the State of Minnesota to hire two bilingual navigators to support Hispanic males.

High school graduation rates use a data set used to ensure students in Austin graduate on time and return. Four years ago, education leaders in the Austin community identified an eye-opening gap in Austin graduation rates – Hispanic males were graduating at a far lower rate than any other group in our community. As a result of data and student partners’ collaborations and community focus groups with families and students, Austin Aspires leveraged grant dollars from the State of Minnesota to hire two bilingual navigators to support Hispanic males.

Early literacy goals

Using the FASTBridge early reading assessments, the percentage of students meeting expectations on grade-level will increase to 40% by 2020.